

Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /083 W
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R 170909Z SEP 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6391

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1861

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PDIP, CH

SUBJECT: PRC TELEVISION COVERAGE OF FOREIGNERS' PARTICIPATION IN
MOURNING

1. PEKING TELEVISION SEPTEMBER 16 CARRIED TWO FILMS OF FOREIGNERS
PAYING RESPECTS TO CHAIRMAN MAO'S REMAINS IN THE GREAT HALL OF THE
PEOPLE. FIRST FILM, DEVOTED LARGELY TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND
FOREIGN STUDENTS, SHOWED CONSIDERABLE FOOTAGE OF PEKING'S SPECIAL
FRIENDS--NORTH KOREA, ALBANIA, AND ROMANIA-- AND SOMEWHAT
LESS OF THE EMBASSIES OF CAMBODIA, VIETNAM AND LAOS. IT THEN
HAD BRIEF SHOTS OF ALL OTHER EMBASSY DELEGATIONS IN ALPHABETICAL
ORDER BY REGION (ASIA/AFRICA/EUROPE/AMERICA/OCEANIA) WITH
MOST DELEGATIONS REMAINING ON CAMERA FOR ONLY ABOUT TWO SECONDS,
A FEW FOR ABOUT FIVE OR SIX. SOVIET EMBASSY WAS SHOWN FOR LESS
THAN ONE SECOND. FOLLOWING A BRIEF SHOT OF THE PALESTINE
LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, THE USLO DELEGATION WAS SCANNED
FROM RIGHT TO LEFT FOR ABOUT SIX SECONDS.

2. DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WERE FOLLOWED BY SHOTS OF FOREIGN
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DELEGATIONS CURRENTLY VISITING PEKING AND FOREIGN STUDENTS

LED OFF BY AN ALBANIAN INDUSTRIAL DELEGATION. THE SCHLESINGER PARTY CAME IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS GROUP, REMAINING ON CAMERA FOR PERHAPS 3 SECONDS.

3. THE SECOND FILM SHOWED LEADERS OF FOREIGN COMMUNIST PARTIES LIVING IN PEKING, AS WELL AS VARIOUS FOREIGN FRIENDS AND "EXPERTS." THE EXILED LEADERS OF THE BURMESE AND INDONESIAN PARTIES WERE FEATURED, BUT SEVERAL WESTERN "FRIENDS OF CHINA" WERE ALSO SHOWN PAYING THEIR CONDOLENCES.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THIS TYPE OF TELEVISION EXPOSURE IS HARDLY A FIRM GUIDE TO CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY, RELATIVE LENGTH OF TIME DEVOTED TO USLO AND SOVIET EMBASSY SEEMS DESIGNED TO GIVE CHINESE VIEWERS IMPRESSION OF CONTINUING GOOD SINO-US AND CONTINUING BAD SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEATHS, STATE FUNERALS, TELEVISION BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PEKING01861
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760352-0794
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760949/aaaabpii.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRC TELEVISION COVERAGE OF FOREIGNERS' PARTICIPATION IN MOURNING
TAGS: PINT, PDIP, CH, (MAO TSE-TUNG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006